

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 FREETO 00463 110803Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 INT-05 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 STR-01 /033 W

----- 118929

R 110720Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 864

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 0463

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EIND, EMIN, SL

SUBJECT: MINING MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON BETHSTEEL INTEREST IN DELCO

REF: FREETOWN 344

1. ACCORDING GOVT INFORMATION SERVICE (GIS) RELEASE, MINISTER MINES KAWUSU-KONTE, ADDRESSING WORK FORCE AT DELCO IRON ORE MINE AT MARAMPA MARCH 6, DENIED PREVALENT RUMOR AMONG WORK FORCE THAT BETHSTEEL "TAKING OVER DELCO". MINISTER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT BETHSTEEL HAD SUBMITTED PROPOSAL FOR TWO-YEAR JOINT MINING OPERATION WITH DELCO WHICH GOVT CONSIDERING. GIS RELEASE STATED MINISTER GAVE WORKERS A BRIEFING ON BETHSTEEL AND TOLD THEM BETHSTEEL WILL HELP IMPROVE IRON ORE MINING IN SL. MINISTER REPORTED HAS HAVING ASSURED WORKERS THEIR CONDITIONS OF SERVICE SECURE.

2. SIERRA RUTILE VICE PRESIDENT DAVID FRASER HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT CONTACT OF HIS AT MARAMPA WHO HEARD MINISTER'S TALK SAID KAWUSU-KONTE IN FACT WENT BEYOND WHAT REPORTED BY GIS TO STATE GOSL FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD BETHSTEEL PROPOSAL AND THAT HE EXPECTED SOMETHING WOULD BE WORKED OUT WITH BETHSTEEL.

3. COMMENT: MINISTER'S STATEMENT IS FIRST AND ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF FORTHCOMING GOSL REACTION TO BETHSTEEL PROPOSAL FOR OPTION PERIOD IN WHICH TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 FREETO 00463 110803Z

ASSESS FUTURE OF DELCO AND POSSIBILITY BETHSTEEL

TAKEOVER OF MINE WITH SUBSTANTIAL SUBSEQUENT NEW
INVESTMENT (REFTEL). GOSL KNOWN BE ANXIOUS KEEP MINE
(AND ITS 3000 JOBS) GOING IN FACE OF UK-BASED WILLIAM
BAIRD GROUP DESIRE TO PULL OUT. SPECIAL ADDITIONAL
FACTOR IN GOSL INTEREST IS THAT PRESIDENT STEVENS WAS
EMPLOYED AT DELCO FOR MANY YEARS AND HAS PERSONAL
EMOTIONAL INTEREST IN CONTINUATION OF MINING OPERATIONS.
SAMUELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STEEL, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975FREETO00463
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750084-0742
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750363/aaaacevm.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 FREETOWN 344
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINING MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON BETHSTEEL INTEREST IN DELCO
TAGS: EINV, EIND, EMIN, SL, US, BETHLEHEM STEEL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006